



# Yardley Friends Meeting Newsletter

March  
2011

655 North Main Street, Yardley PA 19067  
www.YardleyFriendsMeeting.org

Ed Snyder, Clerk

Meeting for Worship 10:00–11:00  
First Day School 10:15–11:00

## Coming Events

- Mar. 6 Committee meetings after meeting for worship
- Mar. 8 BQ Outreach Committee  
Pennswood
- Mar. 10 BQ Oversight Committee  
Buckingham Mtg.
- Mar. 12 BQ Pastoral Care meeting  
Wrightstown Mtg.
- Mar. 13 Meeting for business after meeting for worship
- Mar. 20 Meeting for worship
- Mar. 26 Programs at Arch Street Meetinghouse (see inside)
- Mar. 27 Adult RE 9:00 AM  
*Meeting for Worship*
- Apr. 3 Committee meetings after meeting for worship
- Apr. 10 Meeting for business after meeting for worship

## Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions 2011

Wednesday, July 27 – Sunday, July 31

DeSales University Center Valley (near Allentown, PA)

### *Powerful Beyond Measure: Trusting the Call to Leadership*

The Summer Sessions of PYM offer an opportunity for worship, fellowship and fun for both individuals and families, in addition to the business of the Yearly Meeting. There are programs for all ages and you can attend for the entire event or just a day or two.

The theme for the Sessions this year seeks to address evaluation responses indicating a desire among Friends to understand more clearly the role of power, authority and leadership in our dealings with one another and in engaging the world at large.

Four keynote speakers will offer their perspectives on leadership:

- Wed., July 27 Irene McHenry, Executive Director of Friends Council on Education and Michael Minnig, Director of Outdoor Education at Westtown School: an opening multigenerational program.
- Fri., July 29 Diane Randall, Executive Secretary of FCNL.
- Sat., July 30 Jay Marshall, Dean of Earlham School of Religion.

## Yardley Meeting Retreat on Conflict Resolution

Newtown Friends Meeting  
Saturday, March 19

Barbara Simmons, Facilitator  
Times to be announced

The retreat has been relocated from Camp Onas to Newtown Friends and shortened to a one-day, morning and afternoon event. There's still time to register—until Monday, the 14th. Please join us!

## *Around the Meetinghouse . . .*

### **Flea Market**

Date: Saturday, May 14 (May 21, rain date).

The Flea Market page on our website has been updated, so if someone asks you about its details, you can send them to the website. Kellie Schlussel-Edens is the contact person.

### **Adult Religious Education Program**

The Adult RE program continues through June, with sessions at 9 am, usually on the 4th Sunday (except for April, which is Easter). We are hoping to have additional programs on some 3rd and/or 5th Sundays—we'll let you know.

March 27	Meeting for Worship
April 17	Meeting for Business in Worship
May 22	Quaker Ministry & Spiritual Practice
June 26	Eldership and Gospel Order

## *Around the Quarter . . .*

### **2nd Sundays at 7**

Every second Sunday through June, Newtown Friends are hosting a discussion of a different Pendle Hill Pamphlet. On March 15, Jim Whitmoyer leads a discussion of #407 Living from the Center: Mindfulness, Meditation and Centering for Friends, by Valerie Brown of Solebury Meeting. Pamphlets available from [www.pendlehill.org/bookstore](http://www.pendlehill.org/bookstore).

### **Midweek Worship**

Wednesdays at Middletown	7-8 pm
Wednesdays at Lehigh Valley	5-6 pm

## **A Quote from Our Tradition**

### ***George Fox on Ministry***

“And this is the word of the Lord God to you all, and a charge to you all in the presence of the living God, be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come; that your carriage and life my preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then you will walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone; whereby ye may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you. Then to the Lord God you will be a sweet savour and a blessing.”

From an epistle written by Fox to public ministers, published in his *Journal*, the Nickalls edition, page 263.

This is the most-often quoted source for the phrase “that of God in everyone.”

Editor’s notes on language:

“Cheerfully” probably does not mean “merrily,” as it does today, but more likely, “cheerfully, encouragingly, so as to cheer,” that is, “to encourage, inspirit, animate, or incite, by word or deed.” (Oxford English Dictionary)

Likewise, “over the world” probably invokes the meaning of “the world” in the Gospel of John, who consistently portrayed it as resisting the Word, as in Jn 15:18-19: “‘If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you.’”

### **~ The Gathered Meeting ~**

In the Quaker practice of group worship on the basis of silence come special times when an electric hush and solemnity and depth of power steals over the worshippers. A blanket of divine covering comes over the room, and a quickening Presence pervades us, breaking down some part of the special privacy and isolation of our individual lives and blending our spirits within a super-individual Life and Power—an objective, dynamic Presence which enfolds us all, nourishes our souls, speaks glad, unutterable comfort within is, and quickens in us depths that had before been slumbering. The Burning Bush has been kindled in our midst, and we stand together on holy ground.

from *The Gathered Meeting*, by Thomas Kelly

## Quakers Online

A brief guide to Quaker resources on the Internet:

[www.quaker.org](http://www.quaker.org)

A master portal to all things Quaker.

[www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org)

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

[www.quakerquaker.org](http://www.quakerquaker.org)

A Facebook-like platform for Quaker dialog; offers a daily email digest of Quaker blog activity.

[www.pym.org/our-work/young-adults](http://www.pym.org/our-work/young-adults)

PYM Young Adult Friends page, including a new PYM YAF blog.

[yardleyfriendsmeeting.org](http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org)

Our own website.

[www.quakerbooks.org](http://www.quakerbooks.org)

FGC Bookstore.

[books.google.com](http://books.google.com)

A lot of historical Quaker publications are available from Google books—just enter “quaker” in the search box. Note that you can create your own Google Library of eBooks, so you don’t have to download big files.

## From the Yearly Meeting

### Two Events at Arch Street Meeting House

**Saturday, March 26**

#### *Honoring the 350th Anniversary of the Peace Testimony*

**10 am to 6:30 pm**

A day of music and a panel with Dan Seeger on “The Peace Testimony in a Time of Terrorism” and Barbara Simmons on “Building a Peace Center.” Lunch (\$10) and dinner (\$15) served.

Register at [www.pym.org/pc-annual-event](http://www.pym.org/pc-annual-event).

#### *William Penn Lecture*

**7 pm**

George Lakey on “A Quaker Legacy of Leadership Meets the 21st Century. Info at [www.pym.org/penn-lecture](http://www.pym.org/penn-lecture).

## Annual Sessions – Workshop and Interest Group proposals

**Deadlines: Workshops – March 15 Interest Groups – April 15**

The Yearly Meeting is looking for hidden talent in quarterly and monthly meetings who could lead workshops and interest groups framed around the theme for the Sessions: “Powerful Beyond Measure: Trusting the Call to Leadership.” Workshops provide carefully planned transformational activities and interest groups are more informal gatherings for sharing common concerns. For guidelines and proposal forms, go to [www.pym.org/annualsessions](http://www.pym.org/annualsessions).

## Annual Sessions Online Survey – An Invitation

PYM invites Friends from across the Yearly Meeting to participate in a survey to help find more ways for more Friends to attend these important gatherings (for example, financial assistance, or programs that could speak to Friends’ condition. We are especially interested in hearing from Friends who have not attended Sessions in the past. It only takes five minutes! Visit (<http://www.pym.org/news/survey>).

### ~ Four Doors Into Worship ~

The Door Before – those moments when we find ourselves in a worshipful state of mind during the week.

The Door Inward – “entering and centering,” including centering preparation before meeting for worship, that morning or even the night before.

The Door Within – the experience of being united with the group, ‘settled,’ ‘gathered,’ or even ‘covered.’

The Door Beyond – using the moments as hands are shaken to carry a ‘token’ of the experience into our lives.

from *Four Doors Into Worship*, by William Taber

## FIRST QUERY: Meeting for Worship

Are our meetings for worship held in stilled, expectant waiting upon God?

As we worship is there a living silence in which we are drawn together by the power of God in our midst?

Is the spirit of our worship together one that nurtures all worshippers?

How does our Meeting respond when the vocal ministry seems inappropriate, or when the meeting for worship is consistently not gathered?

Do I faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, and expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?

Does worship deepen my relationship with God, increase my faithfulness, and refresh and renew my daily life, both inwardly and in my relationship with others?

Have I experienced in worship that direct leading to listen or to speak, and have I been faithful to my own experience?

## RESOURCES ON MEETING FOR WORSHIP

*Faith & Practice*, pages 17-21.

*Guide to Quaker Practice*, Howard Brinton, pages 9-27, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #20; \$8.

*Four Doors to Meeting for Worship*, William Taber, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #306; \$6.50.

*The Gathered Meeting*, Thomas Kelly, The Tract Association of Friends, pamphlet; \$0.35.

*Dealing with Difficult Behavior in Meeting for Worship*, Ministry & Nurture Committee, FGC pamphlet; \$8.

*The Dynamics of an Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship*, Mary Hopkins, Quaker Press of FGC; \$8.

*The Amazing Fact of Quaker Worship*, George Gorman, Britain YM; book; \$15.

*A Quaker Meeting for Worship*, Douglas Steere, PYM leaflet; \$0.15.

*Practice of Quaker Worship*, Larry Miller, Quaker Press of FGC, 12-page tract; \$1.50.

Available from FGC Bookstore,  
[www.quakerbooks.org](http://www.quakerbooks.org).

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